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Standards Laboratory,  
CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY,  
COLINDALE AVENUE,  
LONDON, N.W.9.

24th March 1952

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I have just been awarded a WHO travelling fellowship and this letter is an informal enquiry as to whether it would be possible for me to come and do some work in your department. What I had in mind was extending your work with Zinder on recombination in the Salmonellas either within the group or possibly to the Dysentery organisms.

My background is as follows: I graduated in Medicine at London during the War and while in the R.A.F. I did some operational research work. After the war I joined a cancer research institute and while on the staff attended a course in classical genetics under Professor Haldane. Afterwards I worked on the genetics of cancer in mice and on mouse genetics in general as I had to look after the pure lines kept by the institute. I left cancer research three years ago because I had got to dislike the subject and I was very interested in the prospects opening up in bacterial genetics. Since then I have been doing bacteriology and in this laboratory I have had a good deal of special experience in Serology.

I should be particularly glad of an opportunity to work in your laboratory as we have no strong school of Bacterial genetics over here and your approach has always appealed to me by combining classical genetics and classical bacteriology.

This is a purely exploratory letter and I should be glad to know your reactions to it. My fellowship covers a period of 3 - 6 months and it has still to be confirmed by Geneva, though I believe that this is merely a formality.

Yours sincerely,

*Clive Spicer*

Professor Lederberg,  
Dept. of Genetics,  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.